



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 14 June 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
14 JUNE 1968

1. South Vietnam

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Phan Quang
Dan, Minister of State, has been fired, according to early morning reports from Saigon. Dan lost his job because of a recent speech at Stanford University in which he suggested talks between the Saigon government and the Liberation Front.

2. Berlin

There is considerable difference of opinion within the West German government over what Bonn should do to counter the latest East German travel controls. One group, including Kiesinger, is willing to consider counter-measures; others--those who seek closer ties in Eastern Europe--are inclined to view the controls as something with which the West Berliners will have to learn to live.

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3. Burma

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5. France

Guy Mollet, who runs the French Socialist Party, expects a Gaullist election victory, followed by another serious crisis this fall or winter. He thinks the Gaullists and Communists will cut deeply into the center and non-Communist left, with the Gaullists winning--but not decisively. Mollet may be somewhat disheartened by the disarray in which the non-Communist left finds itself just before elections, but he has a keen ear for subterranean social and political rumblings.

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6. Communist China

Peking is quietly shifting to a less strident propaganda line on foreign affairs. Since the beginning of the Cultural Revolution the Chinese have harangued the underdeveloped countries on the virtues of violence. Now the tone is less on armed struggle and more on "good-neighborliness between countries with different social systems."

This change probably stems from Peking's desire to repair some of the damage its ranting has done to relations with uncommitted nations. There is no indication that the US and the Soviet Union are included in any propaganda amnesty.

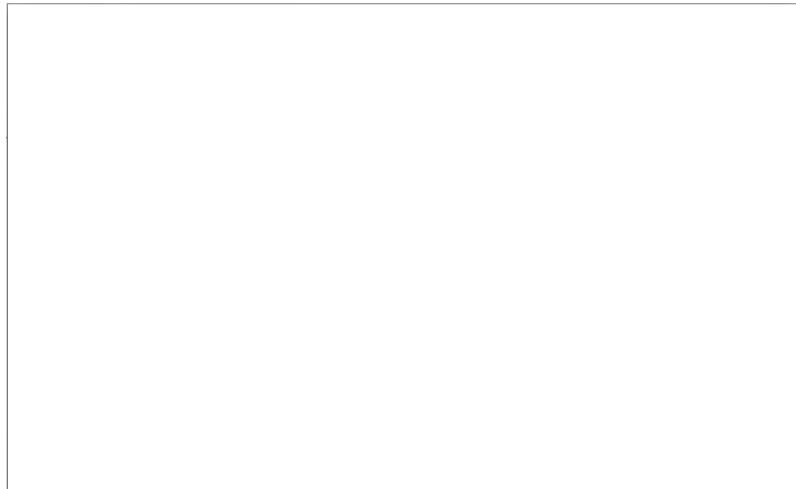
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While the Chinese may be cooling it abroad, the trouble at home is getting worse again. Broadcasts from Peking are encouraging the radicals and discouraging the army from trying to keep the peace. As a result, military units are largely standing on the sidelines while the Red Guard factions tear each other--and several major cities--apart.

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7. Soviet Union

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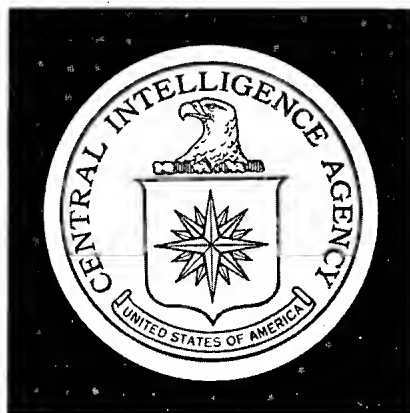
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Brezhnev apparently is on the mend. He showed up for the first time since 30 May when he met with a Finnish delegation yesterday.

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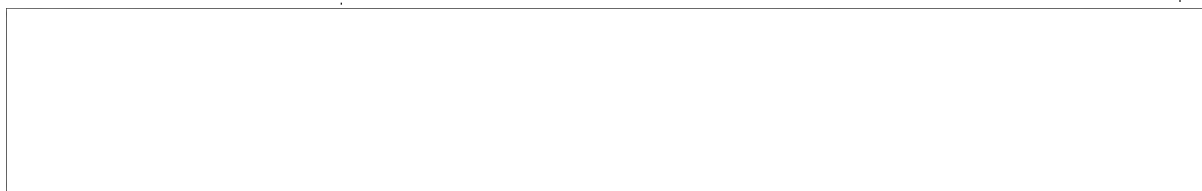
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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

1.) Special Daily Report on North Vietnam



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14 June 1968

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only

14 June 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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East European Aid: Nghi's aid-seeking mission has moved on from Rumania to Czechoslovakia. In addition to standard pacts on supplementary "non-refundable" aid for 1968 and "nonrefundable" aid

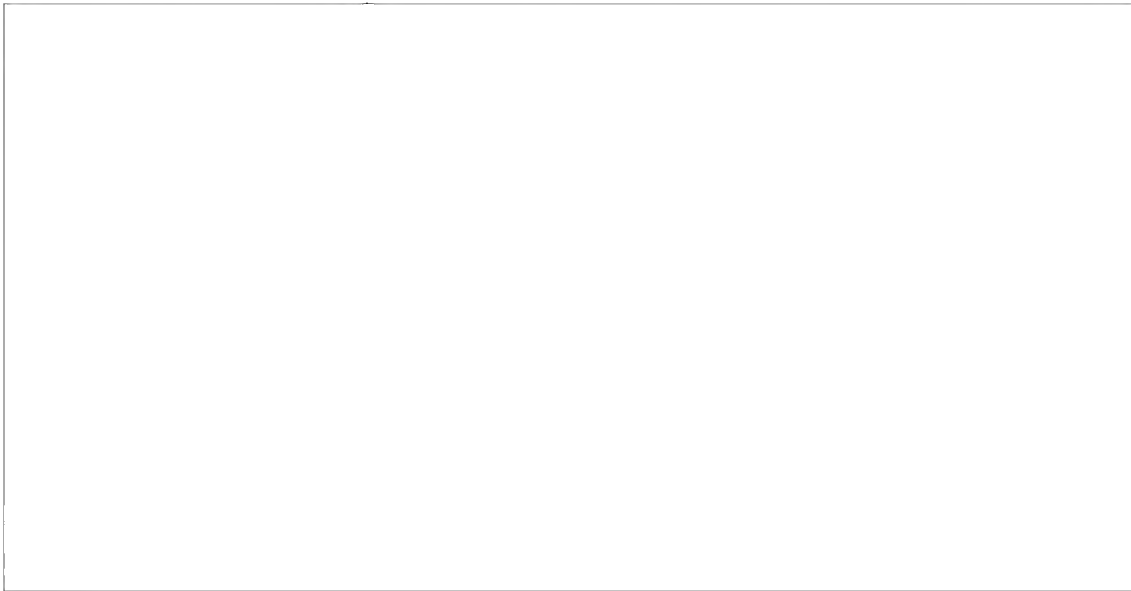
for 1969, Rumania announced it had cancelled payments of "certain sums" due under previous credits extended to North Vietnam. Bucharest is the first Communist capital to cancel debts, although none of Hanoi's aid suppliers expects to be paid. Since 1967 most Communist countries have described their aid as "nonrefundable."

Nghi has now concluded agreements for East European assistance in the coming year with Hungary, Poland, Bulgaria, and Rumania.

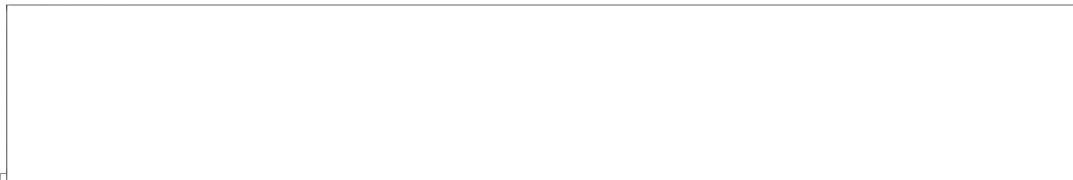
A Czech transport delegation signed an agreement in Hanoi on 12 June to help restore North Vietnam's transport network free of charge. The Czechs will supply rails and "framework"--presumably iron and steel structures--for rail and highway bridges.

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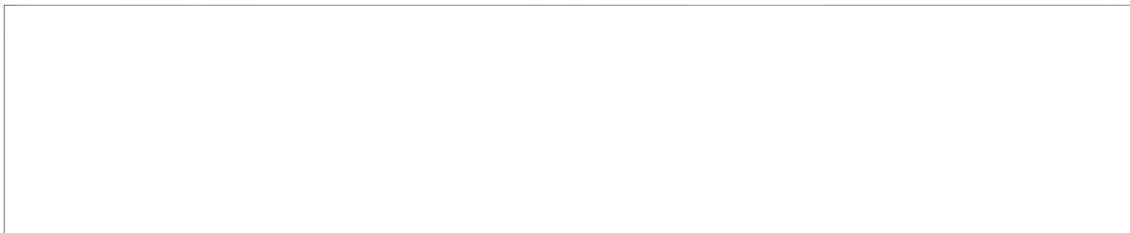
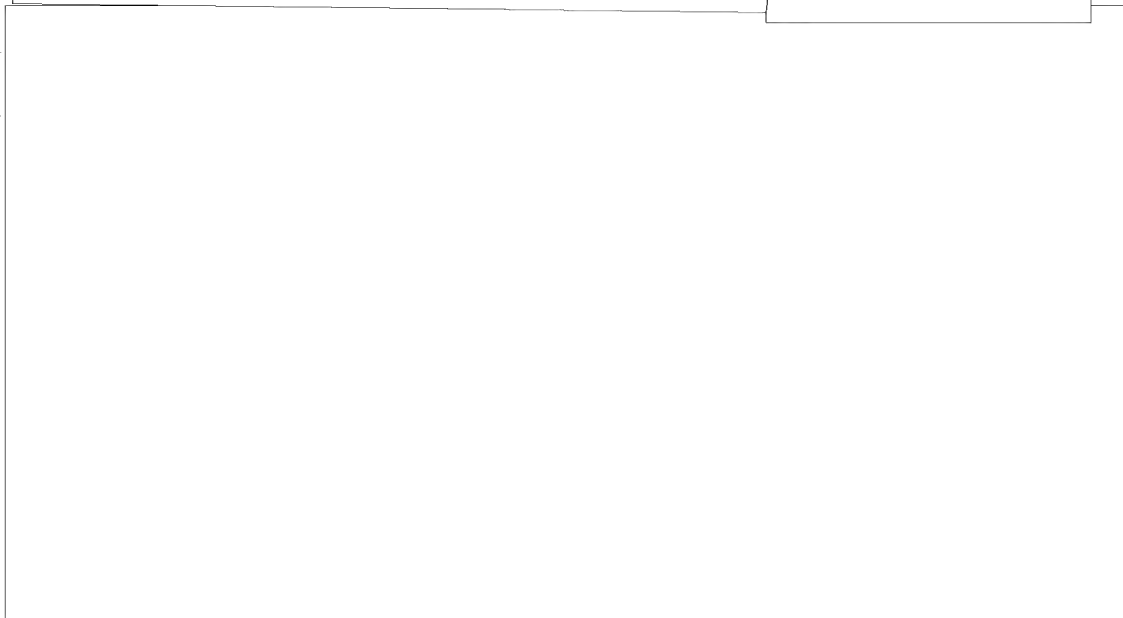
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